have reported that at the time of closure of the Bombay branch of Bank of Credit and Commerce International (Overseas)Ltd.; and deposits (other than bank deposits) stood at Rs. 285 crores.

(b) No deposits have been repaid so far.

(c) The Bank is under liquidation. The privisional liquidator has taken steps to recover the dues na densure that the depositors receive their money back to the maximum extent possible.

LIC Divisional Office in Karnataka

2955. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Divisional Office of the Life Insurance Corporation of India in "Up Ghat" area in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Keeping in view various factors such as area under control of the existing Divisional Office, number of branches supervised. business potential, premium income, economic viability, availability of infrastructure etc., the opening of a new Divisional Office in Up Ghat area in Karnataka is not considered viable for the present.

Export of Arecanut

2956. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of arecanut exported during the last three years;

(b) the share of Karnataka therein: and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the export of arecanut?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The quantity of arecanut exported during the last three years is as under:

(Qty: in kilograms Value: in Rs.)

	Qty.	*Value*
1988-89	99171	1424787
1989-90	1000	27000
1990-91	Nil	Nil

(b) State-wise statistics are not maintained.

(c) Export of arecanut is freely allowed without any export licence formalities.

Licences of Coffee Merchants

2957. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to cancel the licneces of coffee merchants;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow the merchants to bid for coffee in the auction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). There is no demand to cancel the licences of coffee merchants.

(c) and (d). The Coffee Board is already allowing Pool Sale Dealers to participate in the auctions. The Coffee Board is marketing coffee in the domestic market mainly through Pool Sale auctions attended by Pool Sale Dealers.

[*Translation*]

Smuggling of Cotton from Maharashtra

2958. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton is being smuggled out from Maharashtra in large quantity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the value of cotton smuggled out during the current season;

(d) the total loss suffered by the Government thereby; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). There are reports of some cotton being smuggled out of Maharashtra to the neighbouring States as the guarnteed prices under the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme in the State are less as compared to the market prices in the neighbouring States.

(c) and (d). Inview of the nature of such operation, the value of cotton smuggled is not known and the total loss suffered by the Maharashtra Government on this account also can not be as certained.

(e) The steps taken by the Govt. of Maharashtra to prevent smuggling of cotton from the State include the payment of 35% advance additional price over the support price to the growers, intensification of vigil in the border areas and cancellation of licenses of vehicles carrying smuggled cotton.

[*English*]

Reclamation of Cochin Port

2959. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the reclamation of South-end at Cochin Port;

(b) the total cost of this project; and

(c) how this area is proposed to be used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Out of 19 hectares of land which has been undertaken by Cochin Port for reclamation, 7 hectares have already been reclaimed. The rest of the reclamation is scheduled to be completed by November, 1992.

(b) The total cost of the project is Rs. 4.77 crores.

(c) The area when developed will be